TL761

MEETING WITH ETIENNE de JONGHE re EAST TIMOR

Melbourne, 20 September 1988

1. Present at the meeting were Etienne de Jonghe (International Secretary, Pax Christi), George Preston (Chairperson, Australia East Timor Association), Abel Guterres (Chair, Timorese Cultural Centre), Chris Dureau (Christians in Solidarity with East Timor), George Tieman (Uniting Church Office for Social Responsibility), Michael Henry (Pax Christi). Pat Walsh (Australian Council for Overseas Aid).

2. Etienne said that Pax Christi wished to further educate and involve its large European membership in the East Timor question.

3. The following suggestions were made to facilitate this :

   (1) the provision of information direst to the Pax Christi office in Antwerp.

   (2) contact with the Timorese refugee community in Portugal and with representatives of Fretilin and UDT in Lisbon.

   (3) visits to various Pax Christi sections by refugees recently arrived from East Timor (such as those who have addressed the UN Human Rights Commission and Sub-Commission in Geneva this year). The Lisbon-based Christian group Peace is Possible in East Timor could possibly assist with this.

   (4) provision to the Pax Christi office in Antwerp of video material and other community education resources.

4. Pat Walsh undertook to supply Etienne with the following material

   * copy of video The Shadow over East Timor

   * copies of NGO and Portuguese Government submission to the UN Decolonisation Committee in New York, August 1988

   * copy of the statement by Parliamentarians for East Timor

   * text of the recent European Parliament resolution on East Timor and names of supporting and dissenting MPs.

   * other East Timor resource material

5. Etienne undertook to explore avenues for dialogue with the Vatican but stressed the need for comprehensive, detailed briefing notes.

Pat Walsh
ACFOA Human Rights Office
124 Napier St
Fitzroy 3065
Australia. Tel 03/417 7505